

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:278
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
PRODUCTION OF COMBAT AIRCRAFT
THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after the successful test flight of the indigenously developed combat aircraft, the production of the same has been started in the country itself;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the striking capacity of the indigenously developed combat aircraft would be better despite its lower cost than that of the foreign combat aircraft; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) is being developed for the Indian Air Force. As part of the development programme, a total of seven aircraft are being built under the Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) Phase-I and Interim Phase-II. This total is comprised of two Technology Demonstrators and five prototype aircraft, including one

Trainer. After the maiden and successful test flight of the LCA in January 2001, action has been taken for seeking approval of Phase-II of FSED which includes manufacture of eight aircraft as part of Limited Series Production.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. As a fighter aircraft, the radius of action and weapon suite of the LCA would be equivalent to, if not better than, similar single engine combat aircraft under development in the world. Further, the Electronic Warfare suite would be a state-of-the-art system to increase survivability.